



August 12, 2011

Greetings Colleagues,

With the Legislature returning from its four-week break on Monday, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with a few updates.

- 1) This year's California Great Teachers Seminar was a tremendous success, with 40 registered members (most diverse in the history of the program). Bryan and Silvia recruited 22 new members into FACCC. Great work!!!
- 2) We've now completed a follow-up PowerPoint presentation to the FACCC Board retreat (based upon comments we received at the retreat). We'll be sending this to you next week, along with a transcription of the easel notes. We anticipate spending part of the next meeting examining the easel notes and determining next steps.
- 3) We're now working on the possibility of three new contract districts – that's amazing. More information to follow.
- 4) We've secured the Chancellor's Office in Sacramento as the first-day venue of our next board meeting. We'll try to have one of the Vice Chancellors, or the Chancellor himself, join us for part of the meeting.
- 5) As you may recall, there is a vacancy on the FACCC Board, triggered by the lack of representation from Santa Barbara City College, a contract district. In consultation with the Santa Barbara Instructors' Association, the Executive Committee unanimously voted to appoint Gail Reynolds to the FACCC Board (pursuant to the bylaws, her nomination will need to be ratified by the Board). An ESL instructor, Gail has an extensive background on faculty issues and will make a tremendous contribution to the FACCC Board. Her term in this appointed position is only for a year (after which, she can run for another seat).
- 6) Earlier this week, I sent you a note about the drop in tax collections, urging caution in the interpretation of the story. Sure enough, today's news, which did not get a lot of press attention, suggests that it may not be so dire after all. See www.faccc.org (News that Matters), "State's July Revenues Might be OK, After All."

- 7) **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT:** The Veteran's Summit, scheduled September 23, will be postponed to later in the term (November or December – yes, we're aware of all the conflicts). Unfortunately, while we had a verbal commitment for foundation funds to support the event, the wheels were moving a bit too slowly to appropriately publicize the event (plus, we still, didn't have a final word on exactly how much financial support we would receive). Our website has been changed and we will keep everyone abreast of developments.

- 8) **Finally, here is a request for all of you.** Today, The Sacramento Bee featured the following excellent piece: [Dan Walters: California needs to connect dropouts to the economy - Sacramento News - Local and Breaking Sacramento News | Sacramento Bee -- from via SacConnect.us](#) Having read all the blogging feedback (52 so far), I've seen a number of anti-public pension comments, with no one discussing the significance of community colleges in allowing all students, with or without a high school diploma, to access higher education as a means to integrate in society and the job market. As FACCC leaders, can you each take just a few minutes to post a comment about the importance of community colleges – as accessible and affordable institutions of higher education – in serving all strata of our population, and we embrace the challenge of educating those without a high school diploma (we just need to be funded!).

As I mentioned above, the Legislature reconvenes next week. We're also planning for CoFO and Consultation Council, along with a myriad of other meetings (in other words, return to the traditional busy season). Dennis Frisch is representing us today at the Academic Senate, and I have a meeting later on today at the Lt. Gov's office to discuss his [economic development plan](#). Please don't hesitate to contact us if there's anything you need.

With every good wish,



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